THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 23rd August 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

B.C.G. Vaccination in Tiruchirappalli Municipal Area

* 346 *Q*.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons who were vaccinated with B.C.G. in the Tiruchirappalli Municipal area recently; and

(*b*) the number of persons who refused to get themselves vaccinated with B.C.G.?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) 28,130, Sir.

" (*b*) 'Nil', Sir."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" May I know, Sir, the number of persons who were tuberculin tested in that municipal area? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" 108,304."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know how far the controversy which we find both in the Press and on the platform has affected the B.C.G. vaccination in Tiruchirappalli and other districts? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" After the controversy started, Sir, a fear complex has been roused in the minds of people. So it has affected the campaign."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Is it true that in such of the Southern districts where it is being introduced, the response is not as was expected, after this controversy? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, the response is less."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" May I know the number of positive reactors to the tuberculin test in that area? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" About 40 per cent are negative reactors."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that in Tirunelveli the response has been very poor? It was so stated in the newspapers."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Why not the reserve doctors, before carrying on this campaign, have an experiment on themselves in order to set at rest this controversy? Is it too much to ask the Minister for Public Health and some of us to have this B.C.G. vaccination themselves so that we may create a feeling that there is no harm in B.C.G. vaccination? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Tuberculin test is done particularly in the age group 2 to 25, and those who are found negative reactors are given the B.C.G. vaccination. I am afraid the hon. Member may be found to be a positive reactor." (Laughter.)

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know, before starting the controversy by the persons interested, whether any attempt was made by them to persuade the Government or to impress upon the Government their point of view? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Not at all, Sir. The controversy started when Rajaji was invited to speak under the auspices of the Tuberculosis Association at its annual meeting where he launched this anti-B.C.G. campaign and since then the controversy has been kept up. Rajaji, while he was himself Chief Minister, proposed that mass B.C.G. vaccination may be started at Tellicherry. Subsequently during his time, it was proposed to extend it to the whole of the West Coast."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Am I to understand that all the negative reactors in the Tiruchirappalli municipal area got themselves B.C.G. vaccinated? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" All of them did not come. Those who came for vaccination were vaccinated. It is entirely voluntary."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" What will be the effect on the part of a person, who gets himself tuberculin tested, proves to be a negative reactor and does not get himself B.C.G. vaccinated? "

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" That is a very technical question."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" If he is exposed to virulent primary infection there is the danger of his getting tuberculosis attack."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Have the Government any idea of just segregating these B.C.G. vaccinated people from others who may be more in every municipal area, namely, positive reactors? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" How is it possible to segregate? The hon. Member may give his suggestion."

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Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" The Hon. Minister has said that during the time when Rajaji was the Chief Minister, Tellicherry was selected for this B.C.G. vaccination. May I know whether the small misunderstanding between Tamil Nad and Malabar is one of the factors why Tellicherry was selected? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The M.L.A. representing the Tellicherry constituency was very anxious to have it there. So to accede to his request, that centre was proposed."

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Was the consent of the parent or the school teacher obtained in the case of school children? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. It is obtained."

Sri M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that experts in the medical world are divided on this question? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir; except a few."

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Have the Government taken the consent of the parent or the teacher in the case of school children? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Teachers are asked to get the consent of the parents of the children."

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Will it not be possible to issue individual notices to the parents of children before tuberculin-testing them? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" That will create great fright, and it will practically make the campaign impossible."

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" The Hon. Minister has said that there is the fear complex in this State. May I know what positive steps the Government are taking at least to dispel the fear from those parents whose children might have had this B.C.G. vaccination? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government have published a pamphlet, copies of which have been made available to hon. Members. These pamphlets are distributed free to all people who want them."

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" May I request the Government to see that sufficient staff are appointed to see the reaction on and the duration of the immunity given to, these B.C.G. vaccinated children? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The reaction usually seen in people who are given the vaccination is a tiny ulcer which heals without any treatment. So far as our knowledge goes,

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no other kind of cases had occurred. When thousands of children are being vaccinated, in the normal course of things, they get certain ailments, and on account of the atmosphere now created, people think that whatever ailments their children get are due to B.C.G. vaccination. This is quite wrong."

3-10 p.m. SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" As meetings are held every now and then on the topic ' Why I oppose the B.C.G. ? ', is it too much to expect the Hon. Minister for Health also to address meetings on the topic ' Why I support the B.C.G.' ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not see the necessity for it, Sir. Dr. Ranganathan, the Director of the B.C.G. Institute, Guindy, which is under the Government of India gave a lecture under the auspices of the City Branch of the Indian Medical Association. That lecture has been printed. I would request the hon. Member to get a copy of it and read."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" May I know, Sir, the expenditure that has been incurred till now on mass B.C.G. vaccination ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I cannot give now the figures, Sir. But, I may tell the hon. Member that B.C.G. vaccination has not been started only by the Madras Government. There is an international B.C.G. campaign which has been going on in several countries of the world for the last 25 to 30 years. The Government of India have taken up this campaign with the aid of the World Health Organization and the UNICEF and all States in India have taken to this mass B.C.G. campaign. The Madras State was the last State to take up this campaign."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Are we to assume from the reply of the Hon. Minister that this scheme was approved by the Rajaji Cabinet and that the policy initiated by him is being followed by the present Government ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. That is what I said."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" B.C.G. is not confined to our State alone. May I know what are the special reasons for this controversy in this State? If there is anything wrong, other States might have also thought of it."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No such controversy is seen in the other States and the B.C.G. campaign is going on in those States smoothly as it was going on here till May when this controversy began. We have read in papers what reply was given to questions asked about this matter, in the Rajya Sabha at Delhi, in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and in the Andhra Legislative Assembly. They have all said

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that they are going on with this campaign. They are continuing it. They are doing it on the advice of the best medical experts available to the Government."

Fresh taxation to finance the Second Five-Year Plan

* 347 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state whether the Madras Government have given any assurance to the Government of India in regard to fresh taxation to finance the Second Five-Year Plan and, if so, what is the assurance?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"No, Sir."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—"Is the Minister aware of the report published in the Madras papers that the Finance Minister has given an undertaking that, pending general elections, no further taxation will be imposed in this State?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"I did not say 'pending election'. My general view is that we have reached a limit of taxation. But, still, if we are compelled to make a little more effort for the purpose of fulfilling the plan, I am sure the people will not hesitate to bear that additional burden."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—"Is it proper on the part of the Hon. Minister to reveal the Budget secret that there will be additional taxation in the next Budget?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"I never revealed any secret. I said 'We have been heavily taxed already'. I stated 'If necessary, the people will have to bear a little additional burden for the purpose of fulfilling the Plan'. I did not disclose anything else. But somebody gave some information and it was published."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—"Will the Hon. Finance Minister, having developed a sympathy for the public of Madras, keep up this sympathy and say that no further taxation will be imposed for another year?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Sir, not only I have developed sympathy now, but I always have sympathy for the people. It is because of the sympathy for the people and to give them all the amenities that we impose taxes. It is not merely for the purpose of harassing the people but it is for giving further amenities to them."

Kaveripauk anicut

* 348 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Kaveripauk anicut was originally built: and